Docket No.: 0696-0240PUS1 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

 -
Confirmation No.: 3826
Art Unit: 1623
Examiner: L. D. Bland

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION BUT BEFORE FIRST REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE 1.114 RCE APPLICATION)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-SB08(s), attached hereto.

II.	COPIE	<u>S</u>
	a.	Copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are not included.
Copie	s of fore	ign patent documents and non-patent literature are included.
	b.	Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-SB08 are not enclosed because
they v	vere cite	d in the International Search Report and copies should already be in the PTO file.
If con	ies are n	eeded inlease contact the undersioned

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP GMM/ETP/las

Application No.: 10/581,491 Docket No.: 0696-0240PUS1

REFERENCES PREVIOUSLY CITED OR SUBMITTED - Pursuant to 37 C.F.R.

§1.98(d), consideration of information listed on the PTO-SB08 form(s) is requested since any patents, publications, or other information which are listed on the PTO-SB08 form(s) but for which copies are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in copending Application No. 10/566,975. If the Examiner would like Applicants to submit additional copies of the references, Applicants will do so upon request. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE Ш (check at least one box) DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - Some or all of the patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO SB08 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy. П ь. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT - An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III)(A)(3). X OTHER - The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's ď. consideration. Each reference was previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in copending Application No. 10/566,975.

IV. <u>FEES</u> (check one box)

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a. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a new patent application: therefore, no fee is required.

b. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrent with the filing of a continuation-in-part, continuation, or divisional patent application; therefore, no fee is required. Application No.: 10/581,491 Docket No.: 0696-0240PUS1 This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required. (This section is not to be used with RCE's.) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114 (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4)). No fee or statement is required. f. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no statement has been made, charge our deposit account for the fee as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). \boxtimes This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2)). No statement; therefore, a fee as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached. or See the statement below. No fee is required. V. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box) The undersigned hereby states that:

Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 30 days prior to the filing of this IDS; or Each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or No item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS. Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. VI. PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box) The required fee is listed on the attached Fee Transmittal. M No fee is required.

Application No.: 10/581,491

Docket No.: 0696-0240PUS1

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If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Dated	MAY 1 9 2008	Respectfully submitted,
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Attack	nment(s):	
☒	PTO/SB/08	
H	Document(s)	
닖	Foreign Search Report(s)	
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1.1	Other:	